10/11/71

HR,

If the hasty comments I typed yesterday seem sharp, that was not my intent but my state of mind and a reflections of some disappointment (as in your catching no typos). You persist in ignoring the conditions of my life, the scope of what I have undertaken and postulate the impossible, that at the late date of these suggestions I could or would seriously consider what amounts to the rewrite and what for all is impossible the retyping of so long a work when it is not nearly as important, were it desired, as the too many alternative uses of that time. For exampple, I could come close to completing AO. Besides, as I told you a condensation-popularization is being prepared in the hope of reaching a mass audience.

Besides the concern I have expressed of a very counter-productive possibility we also have constant, persisting problems to cope with and almost daily special one. Right now I expect a federal atty today, due Friday but didn't come, and Friday I had to go to the bank to get a time extension of money we should have paid and out of which we have been cheated by the pubs of F-U. These things accumulate, have their effect, and I was bit annoyed at your persistence in not recognizing that you have a fixation, out of context, on puncture. Aside from the citation I can't remember, if you will read the citation I made and repeated to WW, you will see that this does not rest on the use of the word in the holograph, goes in some detail into Specter and the press, etc. All did say he was shot from the front, which is the probalem Specter faced. I'm surprised you don't recall this. The holograph is but a leter reference. Any your path did not give you all the descriptions of bullet wounds, either/

Another somewhat depressing thing is the political immaturity or lack of any political understanding by so many of us, most of all those of whom we should be able to expect it, and I am getting do damned sick and tired of having to be the only one who can or will cope with these things, each at enormous emotional and time cost, each making new enemies. But what is the laternative if I abdicate and am right, as in each case I can recall to now I have been? When will the brightest of us learn that we are dealing with political crime and all the problems we face are not factual but political? When will then learn to shun what can play into the hands of the baddies? Nobody learned anything from Garrison. Instead, he has too much competeition.

Anyway, if my comments offend, that is not my intent.

But you can be more helpful to me if you take the realities of my life into existence and escape the captivity of the literary cliches you have been taught and not consider that each who writes must do it as though pressed from a single machine. This is not to say that there are no such things as irrelevancies or extranieties, but it is to say that they are sometimes needed, sometimes effective, sometimes useful. And above all, please try and remember, whether it is what you or I would prefer, I have had to cast myself in the role of the one who would make the largest record possible. I have fewer years for this than you, and I have much more in my head that does neither you nor anyone else any good unless it gets on paper.

One personal thing for which I take time, and it is to be between us only. I expect you to consider it in silence but to make no reference to it. SM is as great as you think. She is superb. But she has one hangup about which I must warn you that dulls her critical sense, which is ordinarily the best. I can't give you more than an opinion of its cause, but I think it is a frustrated maternal instinct. She gets very uncritical of young men and would probably take deep offense were she to be told it. Epstein is but a single example, and if you want to see how it lingered, note her calendar of the timing of the books. There are others. Don't let it influence you. Be aware of it. But do not take this in any way as any kind of an adverse comment on her. She has a magnificent mind, makes marvelous use of it, and it is a great tragedy for all of us that her sex and her employment lock her into the past. Seh is simply a great person in every way. It is not possible to exaggerate in speaking respectfully of her. But like all os us, she makes mistakes, has hangups, does things she thinks are principled(and certainly intends it) but turn out not to be, and is she passionate in her hates! She is not always right, has some pretty wrong notions, such as any good book on this subject has no trouble getting published! I can show you these things. So, dont't be smothered or overwhelmed. And be on guard not to take advantage of what I have told you or her hangup on the young, which is a proper, human emotion. Hurriedly,